CALPEEK

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***32nd CD Special:*: UNEXPECTED DEATH OF U.S. REP. JULIAN DIXON PUTS THE FOCUS ON REMAPPING.**

Editor's note: At 66, no one expected popular Congressman Julian Dixon(D-L.A.) to suddenly die of a heart attack. But that's what happened on Dec. 8th of 2000. A special election will be called as soon of the U.S. House formally declares a vacancy. Gov. Davis then sets the date. All of this should happen very soon. Here's our update & analysis…

…Dixon was an attorney who was first elected to the U.S. House in 1978. He had served in the CA Assembly prior to that. In the U.S. House, Dixon served on the powerful House Appropriations Cmt. The 29 remaining members of the Calif. Demo Delegation are fighting hard to make sure Dixon's seat remains with one of them. Dixon was not only popular, but highly respected too – by Demos and his GOP colleagues as well. Politically, he was a close ally to both U.S. Reps. Howard Berman and Henry Waxman…

…The 32nd CD is one of the most Democratic in Calif., thus GOP candidates need not apply. Dixon won this seat on Nov. 7th with 83.6%. It's also a very diverse CD and is in the heart of L.A. The *perception* is that this CD is predominately Black, but that's not reality. There's also a sizeable White, Asian and Hispanic population. But since Dixon was perhaps the best cross-over elected official in the U.S., his race didn't matter. He was well likely by all. With his death, there are now only 3 Black congressmembers from Calif. (Waters, McDonald & Lee)…

…The list of potential candidates who are testing the waters is large. ***However***, the one thing which is not totally certain is whether the 32nd CD *will even remain*. With Dixon's untimely passing, Demos may now decide to *collapse* his old district in the new ***reapportionment plan***. There's lots of pressure for a new Hispanic CD in the eastern S.F. Valley. If that were to happen, then something must give – or move. Demo vets such as U.S. Reps. Howard Berman, Brad Sherman and Henry Waxman, as well as newcomer Adam Schiff, will all be impacted…

…With this in mind, sources say that Demo U.S. House leader Dick Gephardt, as well as Calif. U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi and L.A. Co. Sup. Yvonne Burke, are all urging Dixon's widow, Bettye, to run for her late husband's CD. Mrs. Dixon will make a decision after **Calpeek's** deadline. If she runs, Demo powerbrokers will try to clear the field for her. Make no mistake, if Bettye Dixon were to run and win, it makes the remapping task facing Demos much easier and less controversial – althought there may still be lots of pressure from the Black community to keep the 32nd CD in place…

…FYI: If Mrs. Dixon doesn't run, then the list of potential Demo candidates looks like this: State Sen. Kevin Murray, Assemblyman Rod Wright, L.A. Councilmembers Nate Holden and Mark Ridley-Thomas, talk show host Tavis Smiley, attorney Leo Turrell, former State Sen. Diane Watson, former State Sen. Tom Hayden and former L.A. Police Commissioner Gary Greenebaum. Hayden and Greenebaum are the only two white candidates among this field – but it's not at all certain that Hayden will run here. He had been seriously looking at West L.A.'s 5th Council District seat. Stay tuned…

CALPEEK'S PREDICTIONS AND POT SHOTS FOR 2001

Editor's note: There's a proverb which says *pundits who use a crystal ball sometimes eat glass*. We'll see in this New Year's column about ***Predictions, Punditry and Pot Shots***. Thanks to those unnamed sources who helped with this column…

● ***Recession*** – Most, but not all, sources say there will be a short, small downturn in the economy. Some think it's already here. Others think Fed Chair Alan Greenspan will step in and stop a recession before it takes off…

● ***The Big Issue Facing Calif.*** – The power generating crisis. With at least one private utility (So. Calif. Edison) on the edge of a fiscal meltdown, it will be up to Calif. Gov. Gray Davis and new President George W. Bush to solve this deregulation mess…

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◆ ***Oil Drilling In Alaska?*** – Prediction: President Bush will use the natural gas/energy crunch as his rationale to open up ANWR(Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge) for drilling…

◆ ***Will Davis Be Reelected in 2002?*** – If he gets good marks for handling his first major crisis involving Calif.'s power shortage, he should win handily in 2002. If he does not handle this crisis well, all bets are off…

● ***Best One Liner about Calif.'s Energy Mess*** – From LADWP chief Dave Freeman (quoted in George Skelton's L.A. Times column): *If (Gov. Gray) Davis doesn't start thinking like Roosevelt, he'll end up like Hoover…*

◆ ***2001 – The Year of the Special Election*** – There are already 3 specials election in the works and sources predict as many as 7-9 altogether in '01. Why??? *Term Limits…*

◆ ***Davis' GOP Opponents in 2002*** – The most likely are CA Sec. of State Bill Jones and Silicon Valley business execs Tim Draper and Ron Unz. Will someone else emerge? What about movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger? He's a GOPer. Sources say a poll matching Davis against the *Terminator* had Davis winning 61% to 21%. A Davis vs. Jones poll had Davis at 55% vs. Jones 32%…

◆ ***Davis Vs. Bush in 2004??*** – Absolutely if Gov. Gray wins reelection in 2002. Sources say he'll use the Demo Governors' Assn. as a national platform. But remember: as chair of the DGA, Davis must deliver in 2002. His big problem States: Pennsylvania and Michigan. Don't look for Davis to form a committee until 2003…

◆ ***Bush and the DC Demos*** – *Dubya* keeps repeating that same line about how well he got along with those Legislative Demos in Austin. Prediction: after a short honeymoon, the 43rd president is going to have problems with the DC Demos. Austin Demos are conservative; DC Demos are not…

◆ ***Calif. Reapportionment*** – Will the Demos screw the GOP in drawing new lines for the next decade? Most say NO, at least not to the GOPers in the CA State Legislature. They'll get a good deal. But the GOP Congressional delegation will get hammered BIG TIME for trying to put an initiative on the 2000 ballot which would have taken remapping power away from the Demo controlled legislature…

◆ ***The Hot Local Issue Which Won't Go Away*** – In Orange Co., it's the proposed El Toro Airport. Opponents thought they killed it in March, but it's back and alive…

◆ ***Survivor 2*** – Newly elected State Assembly Keith Richmond(R-Sun Valley) is the only GOP partisan officeholder who represents a part of L.A. City…

◆ ***Hidden Hot Button Issues*** – Split roll property tax; and restricting homeowners' legal rights to sue for construction defects which cause health & safety risks…

◆ ***Termed Out Legislators Never Fade*** – They just run for the L.A. City Council when their terms are up. On this list: former Assemblyman Scott Wildman(D), Assemblyman Carl Washington(D) and State Sen. Richard Polanco(D). And perhaps even former State Sen. Tom Hayden(D), if he doesn't run for another office…

◆ ***Best Post-Florida Election Bumper Sticker*** – The election can't be broken, we just fixed it…

◆ ***Folks Who Will be Missed in 2001*** – Dick Pabich, Donald L. Grunsky, Bob Squier, Joseph Lipper, Ken Maddy, Charles Wiggins, Manny Post, Alex Dreier, Betty Wilson, Edward Mills, Harry Barovsky, Hugh Schwartz, Judd Rose, Joe Gonsalves, John T. Hay, James A. Hayes, Eric Aaron, George Christopher, Robert S. Stevens, David Brower, Burt Folkart, Louis Warschaw, Julian Dixon & Michael Madalo. R.I.P. Stay tuned...

***CAMPAIGN 2000*: MAYOR BROWN'S CANDIDATES GETS MASHED IN S.F. SUPES RUNOFF ELECTION.**

Editor's note: On Dec. 12th, San Francisco politics got pushed very far to the **left**, as 129,620 voters (32% turnout) returned to the polls in the runoff election for the S.F. Co. Board of Supes. The result: S.F. Mayor Willie Brown got mashed and sources now say there are only 2 of 11 votes on the left-leaning/anti-growth board of supes that the mayor can now count on for sure. Here's our update & analysis…

…Incumbents Michael Yaki and Amos Brown, both appointed by Brown to the board, were defeated, as was incumbent Sup. Mabel Teng. The only incumbents to survive (not including Tom Ammiano and Gavin Newsom, who won reelection in the primary) were Sups. Leland Yee and Mark Leno. Yee is not considered a Brown ally, but Leno is --- and he just escaped getting bounced by Eileen Hanson. In fact, sources say that Newsom and Leno are the only votes Brown has on the newly constructed Board of Supes, led by arch rival Ammiano, whom Brown defeated for Mayor some 13 months ago – 60% to 40%. How things change!!!

…The new Board of Supes looks this way: Jake McGoldrick (#1); Gavin Newsom (#2); Aaron Peskin (#3); Leland Yee (#4); Matt Gonzalez (#5); Chris Daly (#6); Tony Hall (#7); Mark Leno (#8); Tom Ammiano (#9); Sophie Maxwell

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(#10); and Gerardo Sandoval (#11). The big winners here were Chris Daly (80.9%), Gonzalez (65.4%); and Sandoval (60.9%)…

…And keep in mind that the business community spent a ton on an independent expenditure campaign aimed at keeping most of the incumbents in office. It flopped – big time. Big loser: Barnes, Mosher, Whitehurst & Partners (aka BMW) – the consultants who handled the IE campaign. Another big loser: consultant Jack Davis, who tried to save Sup. Amos Brown. The big winners: Ammiano and former Demo consultant Clint Reilly. Why the big shift away from Mayor Brown? Sources aren't sure, but some suspect it might be that Brown is now considered too pro-growth at the expense of the neighborhoods…

…HOWEVER. **Calpeek** sources are quick to note that "Willie has 9 lives and he's nowhere close to using them up. He may be at a low ebb now, but that will change. He'll manage to put new coalitions together – you just watch." Brown didn't get to where he is now on luck alone. He's also got tons of political skill…

…Brown's chief concerns in his 2nd and last term as mayor include a new hospital to replace the aging S.F. General; begin construction on Laguna Honda Hospital (bonds were already approved); revitalize Treasurer Island; and build a new Trans Bay Terminal. When combined with his accomplishments in his first term, such as the earthquake retrofitting and modernization of S.F. City Hall and the Mission Bay UCSF development, Brown could leave S.F. in much better shape than when he became mayor 5 years ago. Stay tuned…

65th AD SPECIAL ELECTION: BATTLE SET FOR FEB. 6.

Editor's note: There are now only 29 members of the GOP Assembly Caucus because the GOP's 30th member never took the oath of office on Dec. 4th. That was part of the deal that former Beaumont Mayor Jan Leja made with the CA AG's office, after she pled guilty to 2 misdemeanor campaign finance violations and agreed to accept an FPPC fine. Had she not taken the deal, sources say the Calif. DOJ had a sealed felony arrest warrant ready to serve. The primary is set for Feb. 6th, with a runoff on April 3rd. Here's our update and analysis…

…Leja first. What she did back in 1999 was to inflate the amount she had in her campaign warchest. She had raised about $5,000, but claimed $151,000. Sometime after Leja won the March 7th GOP primary against Russ Bogh and David O'Brien, the Riverside DA's office and the FPPC were tipped off that something wasn't right with Leja's reports. Eventually the AG took over the case and got the bank records. That's when everything began to unravel. Leja even admitted during the general election campaign that she had falsified her reports. Why did Leja do it?? No one knows for sure, but it's likely she was trying to impress her former boss, State Sen. Jim Brulte of Rancho Cucamonga, as well as then Assemblyman Brett Granlund(R-Yucaipa). They were searching for a solid candidate to run against Russ Bogh, a former Wilson Admin. staffer who was being backed by Brulte's Inland Empire arch GOP rival Rod Pachaco of Riverside. And Brulte was prepared to assist Leja if she could prove to him and others that she had the ability to raise a credible warchest…

…So with Leja gone, Pachaco once again has the lead horse in this race for the open 65th AD – Russ Bogh, who is a lobbyist for So. Calif. Edison. There are 6 other Republicans in the race and only one Demo, retired naval officer Ray R. Quinto, who got 50,000 votes vs. 54,673 for Leja on Nov. 7th. There was another Demo looking at the race, Mary Ann Andreas, tribal chair of the Morongo Band of Cahuilla Indians. The tribe owns a very profitable casino and they have given tons of money to both Demos and GOPers. Had she decided to run, this special would have been one of the most interesting battles of all time. Lots of political implications – none of them good for the GOP…

…FYI: This is a must win situation for new GOP Assembly Leader Bill Campbell. Lots of pressure on him to deliver. Right now it's not known if the Demos will contest the seat. Our guess: probably not because it has a solid GOP voter registration base. Quinto, on his own, only raised $35,000. It was when the CDP/Assembly Demos got wind of Leja's trouble and kicked in $300,000 that the election got close. Remember: ***Prop. 34*** rules apply – meaning each of the 50 Demos in the Assembly may give Quinto $3,000 in the primary and another $3Gs in the runoff. Sources tell **Calpeek** that Bogh has hired veteran GOP consultant Steve Presson (a Brulte ally) to run his campaign. Stay tuned…

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting…

■ ***Veneman to be U.S. Ag Secretary*** – Ann M. Veneman has been named as U.S. Agriculture Sec.-designate by Pres.-elect Bush. Veneman was head of the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture from 1995-99 under Gov. Pete Wilson. She is an attorney in Sacto with the firm of Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott. A big plus for Calif…

■ ***24th SD Special*** – Although **Calpeek** will do a longer story about this upcoming special election to replace soon-to-be new U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis(D), our sources say that Gov.

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Gray Davis will eventually endorse former Assemblyman Martin Gallegos for the 24th SD over Gallegos' chief rival, Assemblywoman Gloria Romero(D-Alhambra). Gallegos has already been endorsed by Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante. No date yet for the special election…

■ ***Bush Transition Info*** – The best place for info about the transition is at www.bushcheneytransition.com. It's the official transition websit…

■ ***McAuliffe to Lead DNC*** – Attorney Terry McAuliffe, who was once a law partner of former CDP Chair Peter Kelly here in L.A., is set to become the new DNC Chair. McAuliffe was the DNC Convention Chair in 2000; has helped Pres. Clinton raise $$ for his presidential library; was a key fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's U.S. Senate campaign; and remains close to both Clinton and VP Al Gore. Sources say current DNC Chair Joe Andrew will return to the private sector, but will be named the 2004 DNC Convention chair. FYI: In Calif., current CDP Chair Art Torres will seek another term as State Demo Party chairman – and at this point there are no others in the running…

■ ***Bush Wants Gov. Gilmore for RNC*** – Virginia Gov. James Gilmore is Pres.-elect Bush's choice to lead the RNC. Current RNC chair Jim Nicholson is stepping down from the post. Gilmore, 51, will be governor until 2002…

■ ***Lowey to Lead DCCC*** – *Roll Call*, the newspaper of Capital Hill in DC, says that Demo U.S. House Leader Dick Gephardt will name U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey of NY as the new DCCC chair. Calif. Demo Mike Thompson was said to be under consideration for this job. If Lowey is indeed the new DCCC leader, she'll follow Patrick Kennedy of RI, who raised $94 million in this last cycle. A tough act to follow…

■ ***El Toro Airport Has Life*** – L.A. Judge S. James Otero has declared that Orange Co.'s Measure F violates the State Constitution and is therefore OUT. "F" got 66% of the vote in the March 2000 primary. Had it been declared constitutional, F would have required a 2/3rds vote to approve the construction or expansion of airports, toxic landfills or large jails near homes. What's next???

■ ***New Fresno Mayor*** – The new mayor of Calif.'s 6th largest city is former Green Bay QB Alan Autry, who defeated former Fresno Mayor Dan Whitehurst by a margin of 61% to 39%…

■ ***From Demo to Green*** – New S.F. Co. Sup. Matt Gonzalez from District #5 decided that he'd had it with the Demo Party, so he changed his registration immediately after the November primary to Green. Meanwhile, former Green and then independent Audie Bock decided that after losing her Assembly job (16th AD to Alameda Co. Sup. Wilma Chan) she'd switch and become a Demo…

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES. Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these announcements…

● A sad note: Eric Aaron, president of Aaron, Thomas & Associates, a political direct mail printing firm in Chatsworth, CA, died Dec. 1. He was 49 and suffered a fatal heart attack. R.I.P…

● Another sad note: Burt A. Folkart, former L.A. Times obit editor, died Dec. 7. He was with the LAT in various jobs from 1963 until his retirement in 1993. R.I.P…

● Fleishman-Hillard,Inc. has reached agreement in principle to buy the DC-based political consulting firm of Greer, Margolis, Mitchell, Burns & Assoc.(GMMB&A). F-H is a nationwide pr/pa agency, with a worldwide operation. GMMB&A will continue to operate independently in its existing L.A., DC and Seattle offices…

● Seems like just yesterday that Michael Bustamante left Sacto as Gov. Davis' press secretary to join Voter. Com. Well, he's back in Sacto as a Sr. VP with Stoorza Communications, Inc. Easy come, easy go…

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Need experienced campaign** managers & staff for L.A. City Council races. No phone calls. Fax resumes to Phil Giarrizzo Campaign Consulting (916)737-1809.

● **Opinion research, public** policy, elections and market analysis company seeks Research Associate in Santa Monica, CA. Strong quantitative analysis and excellent writing/verbal skills necessary. Work with others/independently for election-oriented clients and public/private sector entities. Fax resume: (310)453-6562 or richard@fmma.com.

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